

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 26363 220909Z

71  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 IO-13 /076 W  
----- 003173

R 220505Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3661  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

S E C R E T BANGKOK 26363

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOL MSG SNT ACTION BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI SEP 21 IS REPEATED  
TO YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T CHIANG MAI 310

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, PINS, TH, XC  
SUBJECT: ASEAN AND REGIONAL SECURITY

1. SUMMARY; DENIALS TO THE CONTRARY, AT LEAST ONE THAI OFFICIAL SEES ASEAN AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SEATO, AT LEAST ON AN UNOFFICIAL BASIS.
2. DURING A CONVERSATION AT A MITRAPHAB DEDICATION IN SUKHOTHAI PROVINCE GENERAL SAIYUD KERDPHON COMMENTED ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO INDONESIA AND HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY'S MILITARY ON THE PROBLEMS OF COUNTER-INSURGENCY IN THAILAND. SAIYUD SAID THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA HAD TO DEAL WITH THE REALITIES OF A CHANGING WORLD. IN TERMS OF MUTUAL SECURITY, ONE SUCH REALITY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 26363 220909Z

WAS THE DEMISE OF SEATO. HOWEVER, SAIYUD CONTINUED, AS

EVIDENCE OF THE FACT THERE WAS ALWAYS AN ANSWER TO EVERY PROBLEM, ASEAN WAS TAKING THE PLACE OF THE DISAPPEARING SEATO.

3. SURPRISED AT THE MENTION OF ASEAN IN A MILITARY CONTEXT, I ASKED SAIYUD IF THE LEADERS OF THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES REALLY EXPECTED THAT ASEAN WOULD EVOLVE INTO A MILITARY ALLIANCE OF SOME SORT. EMBARRASSED AT WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN A DIPLOMATIC FAUX PAUS ON HIS PART, SAIYUD HASTENED TO ASSURE ME THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS TO CREATE A FORMAL MILITARY ALLIANCE OUT OF SEATO. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT CONTACTS WORKED OUT THROUGH THE ASEAN APPARATUS PROVIDED A ROUTE FOR UNOFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS FOR WORKING OUT MUTUAL SECURITY PROBLEMS. HE EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY, BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, LAO AND CAMBODIANS, OF NEVER ALLOWING SUCH CONTACTS TO MOVE TO A FORMAL STAGE OR END IN FORMAL DIPLOMATIC AGREEMENTS.

4. SAIYUD SUGGESTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE WELL AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND THAT THIS WAS THE REASON FOR THEIR RECENT OPPOSITION TO ASEAN, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS AN "EFFORT TO DELAY SUCH DEVELOPMENTS." SAIYUD THEN REPEATED THE WORD "DELAY", SUGGESTING THAT HIS OWN BELIEF IS THAT SUCH EFFORTS, WHILE POSSIBLY DELAYING UNOFFICIAL MUTUAL SECURITY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NON-COMMUNIST ASEAN COUNTRIES, WILL NOT SUCCEED IN HALTING SUCH DEVELOPMENTS.

TANNER  
UNQUOTE  
BURKE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO26363  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760358-0312  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760934/aaaabcww.tel  
**Line Count:** 91  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by ullricre>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASEAN AND REGIONAL SECURITY  
**TAGS:** PORG, PFOR, PINS, MPOL, TH, XC, ASEAN, SEATO, (SIAYUD KERDPHON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006